



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – March 29, 2023

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, Tuesday, March 28, 2023

These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland (www.talbotcountymd.gov).

Proclamation – “National Vietnam War Veterans Day” – March 29, 2023 – The Council presented a proclamation in recognition of March 29, 2023 as “National Vietnam War Veterans Day” and also as the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The proclamation urged all citizens to honor, recognize and thank those who answered the call to serve for the service they so selflessly gave, and to particularly honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down their lives to preserve freedom throughout the world, those who were Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action. The proclamation was presented to Ronnie Cheezum, Post Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5118 and Kenley Timms, Vietnam Veterans of America – Mid Shore, Chapter 648. Mr. Cheezum invited all veterans to attend the ceremony honoring National Vietnam War Veterans Day at VFW Post 5118 on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation of Priority Listing to Maryland Department of Transportation – Ray Clarke, County Engineer and Mike Mertaugh, Roads Engineer presented Talbot County's priority listing which will be submitted to the Maryland Department of Transportation for their Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). Topics included: MD Route 322/US 50 Intersection – North improvements; MD Route 33 Capacity, Safety and Evacuation Improvements; MD Route 33 Oxford Causeway improvements; MD Route 329 (Royal Oak Road) Safety Improvements; US Route 50/MD Route 328 – Goldsborough Street Intersection Improvements; MD Route 50/MD Route 331 – Dover Street Intersection Improvements; US Route 50/Chapel Road – Intersection Improvements; US Route 50/MD Route 309/MD Route 662 Intersection Capacity Improvements; and Easton Airport – Airfield Modernization Program. Mr. Clarke requested Council's consideration to include the Airport Road improvement project as a separate project as the County is currently looking into making improvements to the County owned portion of Airport Road and any intersection improvements. Mr. Clarke suggested making the project No. 5 or No. 7 on the listing. Mr. Clarke stated that his office will also be contacting the municipalities and Easton Airport regarding specific projects they may want to include on the list

prior to it being forwarded to the Maryland Department of Transportation. The priority listing as presented was approved, pending additions, upon motion by Ms. Mielke, second by Ms. Haythe and a vote of 5-0.

Presentation of Delmarva Community Transit’s FY2024 Annual Transportation Plan – Keith Adkins, Deputy Director, Delmarva Community Services and Andrea Waters, Transportation Grant Specialist provided an overview to the Council on the FY2024 Transportation Plan for Caroline, Kent and Talbot counties. The Plan as presented provides nine fixed and deviated routes in the three counties with funding provided from Federal Transit Administration, Maryland Transit Administration and each of the three counties. The Plan references agreements in place with each of the Health Departments in the three counties for non-emergency medical transportation. Additionally, Delmarva Community Transit has an agreement with Upper Shore Aging, Inc. to provide transportation for seniors. The FY2024 Transportation Plan was approved upon motion by Mr. Leshner, second by Ms. Mielke and a vote of 5-0.

Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TALBOT COUNTY TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A SECTION 5303, 5304, 5307, 5309, 5310, AND 5311 GRANT UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT was read into the record and adopted upon motion by Mr. Leshner, second by Ms. Haythe, and a vote of 5-0.

The Administrative Resolution authorizes Delmarva Community Transit’s FY24 transportation plan as presented by Delmarva Community Services and includes operating funds for Section 5311, SSTAP, ADA and Mobility on Demand as well as capital funds for preventative maintenance and bus replacements.

Discussion of General Assembly Legislation:

~~HB0119 - Primary and Secondary Education—Comprehensive Health Education Framework—Established~~ County Boards of Education – Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study – Requirements; ~~SB0199 - Primary and Secondary Education – Comprehensive Health Education Framework – Established~~ [Legislation - HB0119 \(maryland.gov\) https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0199](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0199). The purpose of the legislation is to require each county board of education to follow the policy and guidelines for the program instruction for public schools established by the State Board of Education; requiring the Superintendent to notify a county board if it is determined that the county board is not following every element of the policy and guidelines; authorizing the Superintendent to withhold 10% of the funds budgeted for the county board if the board fails to resolve any discrepancy identified by the Superintendent within 30 days; etc. Council discussion ensued about the legislation with Council noting they wished to support the letter of opposition submitted unanimously by the Talbot County Board of Education on March 15, 2023. Upon motion by Mr.

Stepp, second by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved sending a letter of opposition for HB 119 by voting 5-0.

County Manager's Report –

- Board and Committee Vacancies:
 - Board of Electrical Examiners - Mr. Stamp requested the reappointment of Joe Secrist to the Board of Electrical Examiners. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
 - Commission on Aging – Mr. Stamp requested the reappointment of Jennifer Marchi (Home Instead); Rachael Smith (Londonderry); Veda Gibson (Asbury Place) and Kate Stinton (Talbot County Health Department – Senior Services Program) to the Commission of Aging. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
 - Upper Shore Aging Board of Directors – Mr. Stamp requested the appointment of Corey Pack to the Upper Shore Aging Board of Directors. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
 - Mr. Stamp noted that the County has a number of vacancies to fill on various boards and committees. If citizens are interested in serving please contact the County Manager's Office at 410-770-8010 or visit the County's website at [REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT - REVISED form 2022- Fillable.pdf \(talbotcountymd.gov\)](#). Vacancies currently exist on the following boards and committees:
 - Adult Public Guardianship Review Board
 - Agricultural Resolution Board
 - Animal Control Board
 - Board of Appeals
 - Board of Electrical Examiners
 - Commission on Aging
 - Historic Preservation Commission
 - Talbot County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
 - Talbot County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board
- Request from The Trustees of Third Haven Meeting for Letter in Support of Maryland Historical Trust Grant Application – Council unanimously approved the request from The Trustees of Third Haven Meeting for a letter of support for their grant application to the Maryland Historical Trust for grant funds in the sum of \$100,000 to assist with structural repairs for their meeting house. No County funds are required.
- Request from Department of Parks & Recreation – Recommendation to Award *Bid No. 23-01, ASPHALT PAVING - WYE PUBLIC LANDING, 12500 WYE LANDING LANE, WYE MILLS - TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND* – Council unanimously approved the request from the Department of Parks and Recreation to award Bid No. 23-01 to the second lowest and responsive bidder, R.L. Ewing Contractors, Inc. of Easton, Maryland in the sum of \$61,535. A total of six bids were received.
- Request from the Town of Easton for Approval of Right-of-Way Utility Easements on Port Street – Council unanimously approved the request from the Town of Easton for right-of-way utility easements on Port Street as part of the Town's plan to put all utilities underground. There are a total of four easements (two for Town of Easton and two for Verizon).

- Request from County Manager to Enter into Contract for Sale and Purchase of Real Property Consisting of 2.28 Acres of Land, More or Less, Being the Same Property described as “Seventh Parcel” in a Deed Dated April 26, 2002 and Recorded Among the Land Records of Talbot County, Maryland at Liber M.A.S. No. 1060, Folio 453 and Shown on Talbot County Tax Map 101 as Parcel 264, Tax Identification Number 01-055100 – Council unanimously approved the County Manager’s request to acquire unimproved real property located on Glebe Road in Easton in the sum of \$675,000. The property is needed as part of the runway protection zone project at Easton Airport. The Airport has sufficient funds for the acquisition of the property.

The County Council’s next legislative meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Council will be holding budget deliberations on Thursday, March 30th beginning at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 4th beginning at 4:30 p.m. On Monday, April 3rd, the Talbot County Council will be meeting with the Easton Town Council at their chambers located at 14 South Harrison Street, Easton for two work sessions:

- 4:30 p.m. Work Session to discuss Easton Point project
- 5:30 p.m. Work Session to discuss the request for supplemental growth allocation for Thomas Cohee and Lot 16, LLC located at 28580 Marys Court in Easton

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Left to right:

Front row: Kenley Timms, Vietnam Veterans of America – Mid Shore, Chapter 648, Council Member Lynn Mielke, Ronnie Cheezum, Post Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5118

Back row: Council Member Dave Stepp, Vice President Pete Leshner, President Chuck Callahan, Council Member Keasha Haythe